



February 27 — Arc Flash Exposure

<p>Power Lighting Panel door cover was open exposing the breakers, this is an OSHA violation and against mfg safeguarding for arc flash events.</p>	<p>Told my plant contact so they can shut the water off at another valve so we can finish cutting the pipe and cap it off.</p>
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A power lighting panel door was left open, exposing energized breakers. This condition violates OSHA requirements and manufacturer safeguarding designed to reduce arc flash and electrical contact hazards.

**A panel stood open, breakers in sight,
Waiting to spark with hidden might.
Close the door and guard the way,
So arc and shock don't rule the day.**

The panel wasn't being worked on, but it was still energized. Panel doors exist to separate people from live electrical components. When covers are left open, anyone walking by is exposed to shock and arc flash risk. Electrical hazards don't require contact to cause harm proximity alone can be enough.

An open panel turns normal walkways into electrical danger zones.

Hazards

- Electrical shock from exposed energized components
- Arc flash incidents causing severe burns
- Unintentional contact with live breakers
- Secondary injuries from startle reactions
- Damage to equipment and electrical systems

Stats

- Electrical hazards remain a leading cause of serious injuries in industrial environments
- Arc flash incidents can occur without direct contact
- Many electrical incidents involve missing or bypassing protective covers
- OSHA requires electrical equipment to be guarded against accidental contact

Words of Wisdom

- If it's energized, it must be enclosed.
- Electrical hazards don't announce themselves.

Pause and Think

Electrical panels are often treated as background infrastructure, not active hazards. When doors are left open, people assume the condition is temporary or harmless. But energized equipment doesn't care about intentions. Leaving panels open removes the last layer of protection between workers and high-energy electrical systems.

- Why are panel covers critical even when no work is being performed?
- How does an open panel change the risk level of an area?
- Who is responsible for closing and securing electrical panels?